

P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Mueller, et al.)
)
Application No.:)
)
Filed: Herewith)
)
For: CLOSURE DEVICE FOR A PUNCTURE)
CHANNEL AND APPLICATOR DEVICE)

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail (No. EV 129898313 US) addressed to MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 26, 2004.

By: Carol Prentice

Carol Prentice

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the following references:

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS:

<u>Country</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>
EPO	0 544 485	Jun 02, 1993

The reference listed above was cited by the German Examiner in Applicants' corresponding German patent application 103 10 995.1 (MPEP §2001.06(a)).

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OTHER U.S. PATENTS:

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Patentee</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
5,053,046	Janese	Oct 01, 1991
5,944,730	Nobles, et al.	Aug 31, 1999

OTHER FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS:

<u>Country</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>
International	95/29635	Nov 09, 1995
Germany	100 27 186	Dec 20, 2001

The above-listed references are mentioned in the present application.

Copies of the above-listed foreign references are enclosed, together with a completed form PTO-1449.

An English language abstract is attached to DE 100 27 186.

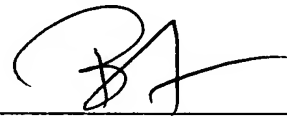
Consideration of these references by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive

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any right to take any action that would be appropriate to
antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent
reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: February 26, 2004
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: HOE-803

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FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				ATTY. DOCKET NO.: HOE-803		SERIAL NO.:	
				APPLICANT(S): Mueller, et al.			
				FILING DATE: Herewith		GROUP:	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	5,053,046	10/01/1991	Janese			
	AB	5,944,730	08/31/1999	Nobles, et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANS- LATION YES NO
	AC	0 544 485	06/02/1993	EPO			
	AD	95/29635	11/09/1995	International			
	AE	100 27 186	12/20/2001	Germany			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							